

CLAIMS

1. A switch element for surface mounting onto a printed circuit board, the switch element having a bearer element and a contact element, both the
5 bearer element and the contact element being formed from an electrically conductive material and the contact element being formed from a resilient material, the bearer element and the contact element being separate components assembled together whereby the bearer element comprises a peripheral retainer for the contact element and the bearer element comprises
10 a substantially planar base to enable it to be affixed to a conductive track on a printed circuit board.
2. A switch element as in Claim 1 wherein the contact element is a shallow dome shape.
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3. A switch element as in Claim 1 wherein the bearer element comprises an inwardly facing C-shaped cross sectional shape to provide a recess to act as the peripheral retainer for the contact element by receiving at least a portion of a rim of the contact element in the C-shaped member recess.
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4. A switch element as in Claim 1 wherein the substantially planar base includes a surface selected from the group comprising plated, tinned, coated with a metal or alloy or a solder paste whereby to facilitate bonding of the planar base to the printed circuit board.
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5. A switch element as in Claim 1 wherein the planar base comprises an inner periphery with a slight downwards angle to contact a printed circuit board in use and form a barrier against the ingress of soldering fluxes or other residues of a fixing process.
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6. A switch element as in Claim 1 wherein the planar base comprises an inner periphery with a slight upturned edge.
7. A switch element as in Claim 1 wherein the bearer element comprises
5 at least one bridge around its periphery to enable the bearer element to bridge tracks on the printed circuit board onto which it is mounted in use.
8. A switch element as in Claim 7 wherein the bearer element comprises a shape selected from the group comprising circular, square, rectangular or
10 triangular and the contact element received in the bearer element comprises a corresponding shape either with a continuous periphery or with legs extending into the recess of the bearer element.
9. A switch element for surface mounting onto a printed circuit board,
15 the switch element having a bearer element and a contact element, both the bearer element and the contact element being formed from an electrically conductive material and the contact element being formed from a resilient material, wherein the bearer element comprises an inwardly facing C-shaped cross sectional shape to provide a recess to act as a peripheral retainer for the
20 contact element by receiving at least a portion of a rim of the contact element in the C-shaped member recess.